
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1869

Brief Description: Concerning the transparency of health care cost information.

Sponsors: Representatives Bailey, Hinkle, Anderson, Ericksen and Kelley.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the disclosure of all fees and charges for health care services by health care providers and licensed health care facilities, at the request of a patient.

Hearing Date: 2/13/09

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146)

Background:

Currently, there is little transparency in the cost of health care services for consumers. Most health care delivered currently is paid primarily by a third party; either a health carrier or a public program that purchases health care for covered individuals. Transparency and better public information on cost and quality of health care can help providers improve by benchmarking their performance against others, encourage private insurers and public programs to reward quality and efficiency, and help patients make informed choices about their care.

Summary of Bill:

Requires the disclosure of all fees and charges for health care services by health care providers and licensed facilities, at the request of the patient. Providers may refer the patient to their insurer for additional information on negotiated charges and fees and any applicable cost-sharing responsibilities of the patient.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.